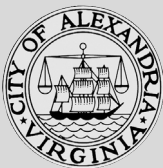


October 2004

A Newsletter for Alexandria Residents



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## Leaf Collection Begins in October

The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services will begin picking up leaves from City neighborhoods in mid-October. Vacuum equipped trucks will collect leaves that have been raked into the curb and gutter line. To ease leaf collection, residents should rake leaves (no brush, limbs, rocks or other debris) into a pile on the curb away from parked cars.

The leaf collection schedule is posted at [alexandriava.gov/tes/sw/leaf\\_collection](http://alexandriava.gov/tes/sw/leaf_collection). For more information, contact the Division of Solid Waste, 703.751.5872.

## REMINDER

Personal Property Tax Payment Deadline is Oct. 5. For more information visit [alexandriava.gov/finance](http://alexandriava.gov/finance) or call 703.838.4560.

**Copias en español del FYI en Alexandria están disponibles en las Bibliotecas de la Ciudad, el Departamento de Servicios Humanos, el Centro de Recreación Lee y la Municipalidad.**

## City Council Resumes Regular Meeting Schedule

The Alexandria City Council resumed its regular meeting schedule on Sept. 14 after a brief summer recess. In the coming year, the Council will be considering a full range of issues including affordable housing, land use, transportation, economic development, emergency management, public safety, the environment, and human and social services, as well as the City's Fiscal Year 2006 budget.

The City Council holds its legislative meetings at 7 pm on the second and fourth Tuesdays from September through June in Council Chambers located on the second floor of City Hall at 301 King St. Council generally holds its public hearing meetings at 9:30 am on the Saturday following the first Tuesday legislative meeting.

All meetings are open to the public and are broadcast live on Alexandria cable channel 70. For a schedule of Council meeting re-broadcasts, call the Office of Citizen Assistance at 703.838.4800. City Council meeting agendas are posted on the

City's web site [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov) and can be emailed upon request to subscribers of the City's *eNews You Can Use*. eNews sign-up information is posted on the City's web site. Copies of Council agendas are also available at the City Clerk's Office, Room 2300 of City Hall.

Persons who wish to speak at a City Council public hearing may sign up in advance with the City Clerk by telephone, 703.838.4550, by e-mail [jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov), or in person before the public hearing in the Council Chambers.

Names and contact information for the Mayor and City Council are listed on the back page of this newsletter. E-mail messages can be sent to all City Council members via the City's web site or to their individual e-mail addresses. For more information about the City Council or its meetings or agendas, contact City Clerk Jackie Henderson at 703.838.4550 or e-mail her at [jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov](mailto:jackie.henderson@alexandriava.gov).

## City Launches "BE READY, ALEXANDRIA!" Emergency Preparedness Campaign

The City of Alexandria launched a year-long emergency preparedness campaign in September called "**Be Ready, Alexandria!**" The education effort is designed to increase public awareness of the risks and planning necessary for all types of emergencies. The program was kicked off on the date proclaimed by Gov. Mark Warner as "Emergency Preparedness Day" in Virginia and proclaimed by Mayor William Euille as "**Be Ready, Alexandria! Day.**" Kickoff participants included the City Council, Citizen Corps Council, and the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Following the kickoff ceremony in Founders Park, volunteers began distributing emergency preparedness information door to door. Over the next several months and into 2005, information will be distributed to every residence and business in the City.



Neighborhood groups, civic organizations, business groups and families who would like to volunteer to work on the "**Be Ready, Alexandria!**" campaign, or become a member of CERT, may call 703.838.5594 and leave a name and contact information. For more emergency preparedness information, turn to page 3.



## PUBLIC FORUM

### *Current Issues Up for Discussion*

## Studies Underway to Plan Future Development in Alexandria

The City's Department of Planning and Zoning is conducting several studies as part of planning future development in Alexandria.

- The **Hunting Point Area Study** is evaluating the City's plans for the area of the City south of the Beltway and east of U.S. 1. The study will examine the changes resulting from the Woodrow Wilson Bridge construction, and the consequences of VDOT's expected sale of the remainder of the Hunting Terrace and Hunting Towers apartments in Spring 2005. An advisory group including residents of the area, nearby residents and representatives from the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee and Architectural Review Board is assisting City staff in this effort. Issues raised by the group include affordable housing needs and opportunities, potential disruption of existing residents, open space and environmental opportunities, and the character of this gateway to Alexandria's most historic district. Recommendations for potential changes to the Old Town Small Area Plan for this area are expected by the end of 2004.
- The **Landmark/Duke/Van Dorn Area Study** is one of the City Council's top priorities for 2005. The July issue of *FYI Alexandria* introduced General Growth Properties' intent to redevelop Landmark Mall with a new open-air center, theaters and housing. The City is looking at the potential for this project to energize the West End with other revitalization projects along Duke Street and Van Dorn Street. Improving pedestrian and transit connections, enhancing streetscapes, and encouraging mixed-use projects on other West End sites are possibilities to be explored. Traffic and other infrastructure issues of potential new development will be addressed. An open and active community participation program is planned, beginning with a September Planning Commission workshop. A community-wide workshop with the Planning Commission is expected in October. Other community meetings will be held regularly through the fall and winter, and recommendations for the plan are expected in early 2005.
- The **King Street Retail Study**, initiated last November, has examined ways to improve the retail environment and performance of the King Street retail district. An advisory committee including representatives of community associations and business groups met during the winter and spring. The committee generated ideas for strategies to enhance the look and feel of streetscapes, improve the way the street operates for both businesses and residents, to enhance opportunities for independent retailers to flourish, and to coordinate parking and jointly market the district. Preparation of a plan for the district is underway and slated for completion this fall. The study will recommend guiding principles and specific strategies to enable the district to meet the needs of residents, businesses and visitors alike, and to compete in the regional retail market over the foreseeable future.
- The **Mt. Vernon Avenue Area Study**, a comprehensive planning effort for Mt. Vernon Avenue's "main street retail district," is nearly complete. The study creates a vision for the future that preserves the unique character of the Avenue, strengthens businesses, creates an active retail street, and protects and enhances the adjoining neighborhoods. The Citizen Work Group is currently reviewing a Draft Plan, and a community-wide meeting will be planned for October to take comments.

For ongoing updates and copies of the plans as they become available, visit the City's web site: [alexandriava.gov/city/planning\\_zoning/neighborhood\\_initiatives.html](http://alexandriava.gov/city/planning_zoning/neighborhood_initiatives.html).

### Planning and Zoning Information

Want to know more about what development and business activities are being planned in Alexandria?

Here are easy ways to learn more:

- Sign up to receive the latest Planning Commission dockets via *eNews You Can Use*.
- Visit the City's Planning & Zoning web site at [alexandriava.gov/city/planning\\_zoning](http://alexandriava.gov/city/planning_zoning).
- Call the Planning and Zoning Office at 703.838.4666 to subscribe and receive a hard copy of Planning Commission dockets, or to have your important questions answered.

## Potomac Yard Development Update

Pulte Homes and Centex Homes recently teamed to purchase the 165 acre Jefferson Davis Highway site on the south side of the Potomac Yard Retail Center from Crescent Resources. Pulte and Centex are national developer/builders planning construction of a mixed use development with 1.7 million square feet of office space, 300,000 square feet of retail and 1,700 residential units. There will be ongoing opportunities for community input on this project through the Planning Commission, the Potomac Yard Design Advisory Committee (PYDAC), and direct meetings with affected citizen and business organizations. For updates on Potomac Yard, visit the City's web site at [alexandriava.gov/city/planning\\_zoning/pl\\_zn\\_home.html](http://alexandriava.gov/city/planning_zoning/pl_zn_home.html).



### Spread Holiday Cheer

The Department of Human Services Holiday Sharing Program is an opportunity to help a family in need, senior citizen, foster child or teen. Residents are encouraged to include the less fortunate on holiday shopping lists. For more information call 703.838.0768 or e-mail [suzanne.kratzok@alexandriava.gov](mailto:suzanne.kratzok@alexandriava.gov).

## IN FOCUS



## Health Department Seeks Volunteers for Emergency Drill

### *Free Flu Shots for Participants*

The Alexandria Health Department is looking for volunteers to serve as "mock patients" for a Nov. 12 dispensing site exercise. Volunteers will receive a free flu shot, as they help the City practice its medical preparedness efforts and mass vaccination plan.

According to John Clizbe, emergency planner for the Health Department, "We hope to have at least 600 'patients' in order to test our plan. We recognize that we are asking people to sacrifice a couple hours of their time, but hopefully the residents of Alexandria won't mind stepping up to the plate to make sure our City is ready should some type of public health crisis occur. They'll also get a free flu shot, protecting themselves from a serious illness. It's a no-lose proposition."

Registration is required, and a limited number of flu shots are available. To register for the event, email [health.exercise@alexandriava.gov](mailto:health.exercise@alexandriava.gov) or call Laura Pettus at 703.706.3940, ext. 284. Registered volunteers will be asked to report to the First Baptist Church, 2932 King St., between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm on Nov. 12. Participants will leave their cars there and be bussed to Minnie Howard Middle School where the mass dispensing site will be activated from noon until 2 pm.

The Alexandria Health Department has approximately 150 trained volunteers, many of whom will be practicing their skills at the November exercise. Many more volunteers, both medically and non-medically trained, are needed to help staff the volunteer corps.

## Emergency Management Forum Scheduled for Oct. 19

The Alexandria Citizens Corps Council is sponsoring a public forum on Emergency Management on Oct. 19 at 7 pm in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 301 King St. The forum will be an opportunity for citizens to comment on emergency management issues. For more information, call 703.706.3940 ext. 284.

## Citizen Corps Launches Web Site

The Alexandria Citizen Corps is responsible for creating opportunities for individuals to volunteer to help their communities prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Citizen Corps will encourage Alexandrians to prepare their families, their neighborhoods, and their communities and to offer, where appropriate, assistance to the emergency response agencies. The group's new web site, at [alexandriava.gov/city/citizencorps](http://alexandriava.gov/city/citizencorps), offers information about the Corps, disaster planning, and the City's emergency preparedness campaign: "Be Ready, Alexandria!"

## Alexandria Police Honored

The Alexandria Police Department was awarded the Reaccredited status in July by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement. To earn this honor, APD worked to meet stringent professional law enforcement standards and to demonstrate professionalism and pride in delivering quality law enforcement service to the community.

## Visual and Performing Arts Will Be Focus of Durant Center

The Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center, 1605 Cameron St., will reopen its doors this fall as one of Alexandria's main studios and stages for visual and performing arts operated by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. The renovated and expanded building, with over 15,000 square feet, is home for drawing, painting and sculpting, music and stagecraft, and serves as the home office for the therapeutic recreation program.



With multi-purpose rooms and other features, City residents can take advantage of programs, performances, and art shows, and reserve the space for receptions and meetings. Connected to Jefferson-Houston Elementary by a well-windowed hallway, young artists and performers can use the facilities of both the school and the recreation center. The Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center was named for an African-American who served during WWI before becoming a medical doctor and setting up practice in Alexandria. His namesake center began as a U.S.O. in May 30, 1942. In 1946, it was turned over to the City of Alexandria. For more information about the Durant Center, call 703.838.4343.

**FYI** ALEXANDRIA

*Is the official publication of the City of Alexandria and is published quarterly by the City Manager's Office. For more information, call 703.838.4300.*

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Public Information Officer: Barbara Gordon*

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Photography: Raynard Owens and Nina Tisara*





# eGOVERNMENT UPDATES

alexandriava.gov

## New eSlate Voting Machines For Nov. 2 Election

When Alexandrians go to the polls to elect the US President, Congress, and vote on Virginia Constitutional Amendments on Nov. 2, they will use new voting machines called eSlate. eSlate replaces the aging optical scan system and meets federal mandates included in the Help America Vote Act passed by the Congress. Voting systems are now required to allow voters with disabilities to vote unassisted, ensuring their right to cast a secret ballot.

As the eSlate insert in this newsletter explains, the voter uses a select dial and buttons, much like an automatic washer or dryer. The approximately 15,000 Alexandria primary voters of all ages who have voted so far on eSlate found the machines easy to use.

In two primary elections earlier this year, none of the 225 new machines malfunctioned and election officials reported few problems experienced by voters in using the equipment. Each precinct opened on time and reported results within 30 minutes of poll closing. Power failures occurred in three precincts, with one lasting over 30 minutes. Machines are backed up with 18-hour batteries allowing voting to continue without interruption.

Voters can learn to vote on eSlate and get related information in a variety of ways:

- Web site, [www.alexandriavoter.org](http://www.alexandriavoter.org). The site includes instructions on eSlate voting, events where eSlate demonstrations will be held, and rationale for eSlate purchase.
- Alexandria Electoral Board and Voter Registration Office, 132 North Royal St. An eSlate Demo Unit is available Monday - Friday, 8 am to 5 pm.
- Telephone, 703.838.4050. Call with questions about eSlate. eSlate instructions and information will be mailed on request. Information is also available about voter registration, absentee voting and other election information.

The voter registration deadline for the November election is Oct. 4 at 5 pm. On Election Day Nov. 2, polls will be open from 6 am to 7 pm.



## Free eNews Information Service Expands

The City's *eNews You Can Use* service now offers 36 categories of information, an increase from the five categories originally offered when the service debuted in 2003. With eNews, users can sign up to receive information from the City on a variety of topics. The messages, ranging from news releases and department newsletters to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders, will be sent directly via e-mail. Emergency messages can be sent to text pagers or cell phones. Only requested information will be sent, avoiding unwanted e-mail. To sign up, visit [enews.alexandriava.gov](http://enews.alexandriava.gov).

### General Information

Affordable Housing Opportunities  
Alexandria Library Monthly Calendar  
Animal Watch  
Animal Welfare League News  
Boards and Commissions Vacancies  
Economic Development Updates  
Election Information and Sample Ballots  
General City News Releases  
Historic Alexandria News Releases  
Job Opportunities  
Office on Women Newsletter

### Public Meeting Agendas

Alexandria City Council  
Board of Arch. Review (Old & Historic Dist.)  
Board of Arch. Review (Parker-Gray Dist.)  
Board of Zoning Appeals  
Notices of City Government Meetings  
Planning Commission

### Public Safety

Code Enforcement Updates  
Construction/Permitting Requirements

### Public Safety (continued)

Crime Prevention Tips  
Daily Crime Report  
Emergency Management Tips & News  
Fire and Life Safety Tips & News  
Police News Releases  
Smoke Detector Battery Reminders

### Payment Deadline Reminders

Business License Tax  
Business Property Tax  
Dog and Cat Licenses  
Federal Income Tax  
Personal Property Tax  
Real Estate Tax  
Residential Parking Permits  
Virginia Income Tax

### Public Works and Transportation

Recycling and Solid Waste Updates

### Web Site Updates

GIS News  
New Web Site Features

## eChecks Proves Popular Among Taxpayers

Alexandria's eChecks system allows customers to pay City taxes and bills through the Internet, by transferring funds from their checking or savings accounts. Use eChecks to pay personal property taxes, real estate taxes, and parking tickets, or to register for the Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. Additional payment types will be added later this year.

To make a payment, identify the bill to be paid and enter the bank routing number and account number. Funds will be transferred from a user's account to the City's account within one to two days, and the payment will appear on the user's bank statement. Unlike payments by credit card, there is no additional fee to make an eChecks payment.

The City continues to provide a variety of payment options, including online and telephone payment by any major credit card, payment in person at City Hall by cash, check, or Discover card, payment by mail by check, and payment at the City Hall drop box by check. Since eChecks became available on April 1, the system has processed more than 2,000 payments, totalling well over a half million dollars. eChecks is available at [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov).

## PROGRAMS &amp; SERVICES



## Health Department and Mental Health Clubhouse Relocate to West End

In mid-August, the City's Health Department moved from its headquarters on N. St. Asaph Street in Old Town to 4480 King St. in the City's West End. This move culminated a four-year project which included the relocation of the Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Substance Abuse's "Clubhouse" from North Patrick Street to the 5th and 6th floors of the new building.

The move was necessary to provide better service to Alexandrians. The major building systems at the former Health Department headquarters, constructed nearly 60 years ago, had outlived their useful lives. Included in the Health Department portion of the building is a dental clinic, HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Disease clinic, WIC Programs, Vital Records (birth and death certificates) and laboratory space. Inspectors who regulate food establishments in the City are also based out of the new facility. Likewise, Mental Health Clubhouse, a psychosocial day facility for adults, needed to relocate from Old Town and expand its program features. For more information about the Alexandria Health Department check the web site [www.alexhealth.org](http://www.alexhealth.org) or call 703.838.4400.

## Alexandria City Government Meetings Air on Cable TV

Cable television in the City of Alexandria is provided by Comcast Cable through a non-exclusive franchise agreement. Channel 70 is the Alexandria City Government Channel on which all government meetings are broadcast.

City Council meetings, held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, are aired live. The first monthly meeting is replayed on the following Friday and the second meeting is replayed on the following Thursday. Public hearings, normally held the Saturday following the first Tuesday meeting, are aired live and replayed on the following Saturday. The Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Board of Architectural Review for the Parker-Gray District meetings are aired on Channel 70 once per month. The School Board and Board of Architectural Review for the Old & Historic District meetings, which meet twice per month or more, are also aired live. The programming schedule can be found on the City's web site at [alexandriava.gov/city/cablecast/cablecast](http://alexandriava.gov/city/cablecast/cablecast)

Other Comcast Cable Channels include:

*Channel 69* - Local Origination Programming

*Channel 70* - City Government Channel

*Channel 71* - Alexandria City Public Schools

*Channel 72* - Northern Virginia Community College

*Channel 73* - George Mason University



## City Council Adopts New Solid Waste Plan

The City Council adopted a new Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) in June. The environmentally supportive new plan increases Alexandria's recycling goal to 35% and includes plans to mandate recycling for commercial and multi-family properties later in FY 2005. Alexandria is the only major jurisdiction in the Washington, DC area which does not have mandated commercial and multi-family recycling programs. For more information, contact the Office of Transportation and Environmental Services, 703.838.4966.

## New JobLink Web Site Helps Job Seekers

Whether you are unemployed or underemployed, a recent college graduate or a veteran transitioning from the military, a homemaker re-entering the workforce or a professional changing careers, JobLink can help with your job search. JobLink provides a variety of employment services from basic resources to intensive assistance. Visit [alexandriava.gov/joblink](http://alexandriava.gov/joblink) for:

- A Resource Center with the tools and information necessary for a productive job search
- Assisted job searches, provided by a staff of employment specialists and job developers
- Training options available to persons who want to gain or enhance skills.

## Upcoming Holiday Schedules

Alexandria City government offices will be closed for the Columbus Day holiday on Oct. 11, Thanksgiving holiday on Nov. 25 and 26, and Christmas on Dec. 24. City offices normally open on Saturdays will be closed on Oct. 9, Nov. 27 and Dec. 25. A complete list of changes in City services and programs due to the holidays will be posted on the City web site [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov). For more information call 703.838.4800.

## New Resident Information

Just moved to Alexandria? Here's a list of useful web sites and telephone numbers.

### Automobile Registration

[alexandriava.gov/city/tax\\_guide](http://alexandriava.gov/city/tax_guide)  
or call 703.838.4680.

### Citizen Assistance

703.838.4800

### School Enrollment

[www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us)  
or call 703.824.6600 or TTY 703.824.6666

### Trash Pick-Up and Recycling

[alexandriava.gov/tes/sw/overview.html](http://alexandriava.gov/tes/sw/overview.html)  
or contact the Division of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703.751.5130.

### Voter Registration:

[www.alexandriavoter.org](http://www.alexandriavoter.org)  
or call 703.838.4050.

A complete listing of services in Alexandria can be found in the Know Your City Guide available at the Citizen Assistance Office in City Hall and the City's web site at [alexandriava.gov/city/kyc/kycindex.html](http://alexandriava.gov/city/kyc/kycindex.html).





## CITY LIFE

## Duncan Library Opens in Temporary Location

The Duncan Branch Library has moved to temporary space at 3809 Mt. Vernon Ave., site of a former video store. A 5,000 square foot addition is being added to Duncan Library, and a spring 2005 opening is planned. The renovations will include an environmentally friendly green roof, a naturally lit adult reading area, and a new and enlarged children's area. An additional entrance will be provided on Commonwealth Avenue. Duncan is open Monday through Thursday, 9 am - 9 pm; Fridays, 9 am - 6 pm; and Saturdays, 9 am - 5 pm. A large, representative selection of Duncan's collection of books, CDs, videos, and DVDs are available for check-out from this temporary location. Most library services are offered, including computer access, item reserves, a limited selection of reference materials, and children's story times.

## ACPS Launches 2004-2005 School Year

The Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) launched the school year with 18 schools, 10,704 students, new principals at five schools and lap top computers for students in grades 9-12 to use at school and at home. Construction crews are preparing to break ground in December on the new T.C. Williams High School, the City's only high school, and Tucker Elementary School is operating with a new modified school calendar.

Residents are invited to be part of school system activities:

- Visit schools and see learning in action on bus tours scheduled at selected schools in October, January, or March.
- Participate in the monthly roundtable discussions hosted by the School Board Chairman and Superintendent.
- Volunteer at a neighborhood school or call 703.824.6639 to see where the need is greatest.



To keep up with the latest school news and events, residents may subscribe to ACPS E-news by visiting the web site [www.acps.k12.va.us](http://www.acps.k12.va.us). For details about the bus tours and roundtable discussions, call 703.824.6635.

## Building the Future at T.C. Williams

Hensel Phelps, the nation's ninth largest construction contracting firm, has been selected to construct the new T.C. Williams High School. The project is scheduled to break ground in December, with completion planned by September 2007. The classroom trailers, otherwise known as "Titan Village," will be installed on the main athletic field in late September so that students will be able to continue their learning without interruption.

Varsity football home games scheduled in October and November will be played at Episcopal High School and junior varsity football home games will be played mostly at George Washington Middle School. For updated athletic information, call 703.824.6860.

The 2005 graduation ceremony, which would have normally been held in Parker-Gray Memorial Stadium, is scheduled for June 24 in the Patriot Center at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.



Join the City's  
Office on Women and  
Inova Alexandria Hospital  
for the 10th Anniversary of the



## Walk To Fight Breast Cancer

**Saturday, Oct. 23**  
Registration begins at 6:30 am;  
the walk event begins at 8 am

Cameron Run Regional Park  
4001 Eisenhower Ave.



Proceeds support the Alexandria Breast Cancer Walk Fund for Early Detection and Education at Inova Alexandria Hospital

For more information or to register,  
call 703.838.5030 or visit [www.alexcanwalk.com](http://www.alexcanwalk.com).



## Duke Street Concourse Dedicated in July

Poised to cut the ribbon officially opening the Duke Street Concourse are (left to right) Nicholas P. Godici, Commissioner for Patents, Councilmember Gaines, Mayor Euille, Councilmember Krupicka, Vice Mayor Pepper, Congressman Moran and Councilmember Smedberg. The Duke Street Concourse - an underground pedestrian walkway that connects the King Street Metro Station to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) campus - was officially opened for pedestrians in July. About 7,100 employees will work at the Alexandria PTO when it is fully occupied in mid-2005. Approximately 50 percent of PTO employees are expected to use transit to get to work. The majority of those will use the King Street Metro station.



## FUNFORMATION



## Alexandria Celebrates Holiday Season in Tartan Plaid

Hear the bagpipes of hundreds of Scottish clansmen, and check out the Scotties and Westies dressed in their holiday finery. Later, gather with your friends along the waterfront to see the bright lights of two miles of festively decorated pleasure boats cruising along the Potomac River. It's the holiday season in Alexandria, and the *Fun Side of the Potomac* couldn't be more fun!

Alexandria opens the holiday season with the City's annual tree lighting ceremony in historic Market Square, 301 King St., on Friday, Nov. 26, 7 - 9 pm. On Saturday, Dec. 4, the Campagna Center hosts the 34th Annual Scottish Walk weekend. Highlights include the Scottish Walk parade at 10:30 a.m. in the historic Old Town district, a tour of historic homes, and the Holiday Boat Parade of Lights at 5:30 pm. Also on Dec. 4, the Potomac West Business Association will sponsor "Holiday on the Avenue" along Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria's Del Ray shopping district.

Top off the holiday season with the popular First Night Alexandria on Dec. 31. First Night is a family-oriented New Year's Eve celebration that is accessible, affordable, safe and alcohol-free. For information about First Night, check the web site at [www.firstnightalexandria.org](http://www.firstnightalexandria.org) or call 703.838.4200 ext. 210.



This year the City's Old Town and Mount Vernon Avenue shopping districts will be decked out in tartan plaid. Be on the look out for "Alex," the holiday Scottie dog, and be eligible to win a winter shopping spree. Participating Alexandria merchants will display toy Scotty dogs for the "Find Alex" promotion. Strolling performers and brightly decorated shops and restaurants will help to make the holiday season a memorable experience.

The City of Alexandria is making getting to and around Old Town easy with the DASH About free bus shuttle, which runs every 15 minutes, Fridays, 7 pm - midnight; Saturdays, 10 am - midnight; and Sundays, 11 am - 10 pm. The colorfully painted DASH About travels from the King Street Metro station down King Street to the Ramsay House Visitors Center and then returns to the Metro with stops in between.

For updated information on holiday events, visit [www.funside.com](http://www.funside.com) or call the Ramsay House Visitors Center at 703.838.5005.

## U.S. Capitol Holiday Tree Will Visit

Alexandria has been selected as one of the 34 cities in Virginia to serve as a stop for the 2004 Capitol Holiday Tree as it journeys to the US Capitol in Washington, DC. The cut tree, which is approximately 70 feet tall, was grown in Highland County, VA, and will arrive in Alexandria in the next few weeks. Check the City's web site at [alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov) for the exact date and time.

Residents are invited to "greet" the tree at the memorial, where holiday entertainment and refreshments are also planned. The Mayor will present an ornament from the City of Alexandria, which will be placed on the tree when it arrives at the Capitol. A call for artists will be made in October for those interested in creating an ornament for a juried selection. The tree will eventually be decorated with over 5,000 holiday ornaments made by Virginians. For more information call 703.838.4343.

The City of Alexandria is holding

### The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

**Friday, Nov. 26 at 7 pm**

Market Square  
301 King St.

*The festivities include greetings from Mayor Euille and Santa, plus musical entertainment and other holiday activities.*



For more information, call 703.838.4343



*Fort Ward Museum held its popular summer camp in June. On its closing day, Battalion leader Noah Seferian walked the members of Company A & B through their drills for their parents to see, and presented them with discharge papers.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Free Parent-Child Play Group**

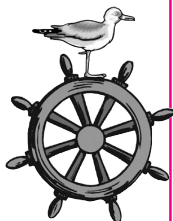
Ages 3-4  
Wednesdays, 10 - 11 am  
Beatley Library - FREE!  
703.519.5900

**Lantern Tours**

Fridays, Oct. - Nov.  
Gadsby's Tavern Museum  
\$5/adults, \$2/11-17, Free 10 and under  
703.838.4242

**Seaport Days**

Saturday, Oct. 9,  
9 am - 5 pm  
Waterfront Park  
FREE!, reservations  
required  
703.549.7078

**Family Fall Festival**

Saturday, Oct. 16, 10 am - 3 pm  
Armistead L. Boothe Park - FREE!  
703.838.4844

**Teddy Bear Tea**

Saturday, Oct. 16, 1 - 3 pm  
Black History Museum  
703.838.4356

**Walk to Fight Breast Cancer**

Saturday, Oct. 23, 8 am  
Cameron Run Regional Park  
703.838.5030

**"What Lies Beneath our Feet"**

**Walking Tour**  
Saturday, Oct. 23, 10 am  
Torpedo Factory  
Free, reservations required  
703.838.4399

**Time Travels**

Sunday, Oct. 24, 1 - 4:30  
Gadsby's Tavern  
\$5, reservations required  
703.838.4242

**Fifth Annual  
Doggie Costume Contest**

Thursday, Oct. 28, 5 - 8 pm  
480 King Street - FREE!  
703.838.4844

**Historic Alexandria Haunting:**

**Night of Lost Souls**  
Saturday, Oct. 30, 7 - 10 pm  
Gadsby's Tavern Museum  
\$10/adults; \$5/children  
703.838.4242

**8th Annual Potomac West  
Halloween Parade**

Children & Pets in Costume &  
Decorated Strollers  
Sunday, Oct. 31, 2004, 2 pm  
Mt. Vernon &  
Bellefonte Avenues  
FREE!

**Swordsmen's Rendezvous**

Saturday, Nov. 6, 11 am - 4:30 pm  
Gadsby's Tavern Museum  
\$5/person  
703.838.4242

**America Recycles Day**

Monday, Nov. 15  
703.751.5872

**Late Harvest Ball**

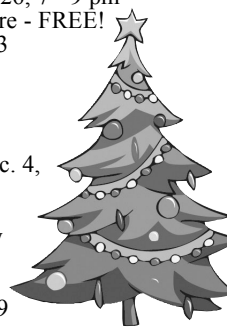
Saturday, Nov. 20, 8 - 11 pm  
Gadsby's Tavern Museum  
\$30/advance; \$40/door  
703.838.4242

**City of Alexandria  
Christmas Tree Lighting**

Friday, Nov. 26, 7 - 9 pm  
Market Square - FREE!  
703.838.4343

**Ornament  
Decorating  
Workshop**

Saturday, Dec. 4,  
1 - 4 pm  
Alexandria  
Archaeology  
Museum  
FREE!  
703.838.4399

**5th Annual Holiday  
Parade of Boats**

Saturday, Dec. 4, 5:30 - 6:30 pm  
Alexandria Marina  
at the foot of Cameron St.  
FREE!  
703.838.4844

**34th Annual Scottish  
Christmas Walk  
Parade**

Saturday, Dec. 4, 10:30 am  
Old Town Alexandria  
703.549.0111

**Toys For Tots**

Sunday, Dec. 5, 1 - 5 pm  
Lee Center, Exhibit Hall  
Unopened toy or Minimum \$10  
contribution  
703.838.4844

**Christmas in Camp**

Saturday, Dec. 11  
Fort Ward  
703.838.4554

**First Night Alexandria**

Friday, Dec. 31  
Old Town  
703.838.4200, x210



**FYI ALEXANDRIA**

The City of Alexandria's Official Resident Newsletter

FYI ALEXANDRIA

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[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)

City Council

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Vice Mayor Redella Pepper ([delpepper@aol.com](mailto:delpepper@aol.com))  
Councilman Ludwig P. Gaines ([councilmangaines@aol.com](mailto:councilmangaines@aol.com))  
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703.838.4550



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